



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs


Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

October 17, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FROM:

Robert Raben 
Assistant Attorney General

SUBJECT:

Weekly Report for October 16, 2000 - October 20, 2000

THE WEEK AHEAD

CJS Immigration Provisions: OLA, INS and ODAG continue to work with the White House and Democratic Members of Congress to push for the inclusion of the Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act (LIFA) in the CJS appropriations bill. LIFA does three things: 1) grants the ability to apply for permanent residence to those Central Americans, Haitians and Liberians left out of NACARA; 2) changes the "registry date" to 1986, thereby allowing anyone in the U.S. by 1986 to apply for permanent residence; and 3) restores 245(i) relief. (First)

H.R. 3125, the Internet Gambling Prohibition Act: The Department has been advised that this bill may be considered by the full House sometime this week under a modified rule. The bill is opposed by the Administration. (Daley)

Telecom: The Department continues to monitor the status of pending telecom merger legislation (S. 467 [DeWine/Kohl] and S.2793 [Hollings]). The Department is also monitoring the status of a provision in Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations that would establish a one year moratorium on FCC licensing of mergers involving foreign government ownership interests greater than 25 percent. (Walter)

Bankruptcy: The House took up Bankruptcy Reform legislation on October 11 by attaching a slightly revised version of the last offer to an old conference report. Senate conferees had already been appointed, so the House appointed conferees and signed the conference report on October 11. The House agreed to the measure on October 12, while the Senate will file cloture and take up the bill this week. The Administration sent a letter reiterating its veto threat over the basic inequities of the bill, and the homestead and clinic violence provisions. (Wilson)

Education: On October 17, staff from OLA and the Civil Rights Division will meet with Senator Jeff Sessions and Congressman Bob Riley about compliance with the consent decree in Coosa, Alabama. (Scott-Finan)

Indian Claims: On October 17, the House will consider S. 2917, the Santo Domingo Pueblo Claims Settlement Act on the suspension calendar. This bill is supported by the Administration and passed the Senate last week. (Pearlman)

House Government Reform Committee Reports on Waco, Campaign Finance, White House E-Mail, and Other Matters: On October 19, the House Government Reform Committee is expected to release two reports, one about Waco and the other regarding campaign finance, White House e-mail, ICITAP and other matters. We are reviewing drafts of both reports and considering how best to respond to them. These reports have largely overtaken the transcript of the Attorney General's interview by Chairman Burton and staff from the House Government Reform Committee regarding these matters. (Burton)

Voter Intimidation: On October 20, staff from OLA and the Civil Rights Division will meet with Congressman Dale Kildee to hear concerns about voter intimidation in Flint, Michigan. The City Clerk has requested election monitors. (Scott-Finan)

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Charitable Choice Meeting with Civil Rights Groups: On October 10, representatives of the Department met with representatives of the ACLU, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, NAACP, and other civil rights groups to discuss concerns related to charitable choice provisions, such as federal funding of religious organizations that provide faith-based social services and exemptions of religious entities that receive federal funding from federal employment law provisions prohibiting discrimination. (Ho)

Hate Crimes: The hate crimes provisions were removed from the Department of Defense authorization conference report. Both houses subsequently approved the measure without the language. (Scott-Finan)

Senate Intelligence Authorization Bill: On October 12, both the Senate and the House approved the Senate Intelligence Authorization bill. The bill is pending the President's signature. (Walter)

Prison Drug Treatment Programs: On October 12, OLA and BOP staff met with House Judiciary Committee staff to discuss BOP drug treatment programs. (Scott-Finan)

Sentencing Commission Review: The Criminal Justice Subcommittee (Thurmond, Chair) of the Senate Judiciary Committee held its hearing on the U.S. Sentencing Commission and reasons for downward departures from the guidelines on October 13. Laird Kirkpatrick, of the Criminal Division, testified on behalf of the Department. U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York Denise O'Donnell accompanied him to answer questions. (Tanner, Scott-Finan)